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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,914	10/19/2001	Todd Allen Link	15892-US	8531

7590 08/22/2002

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EXAMINER

RYZNIC, JOHN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3745

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/982,914

Applicant(s)

LINK ET AL.

Examiner

John Ryznic

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson 3,631,930 in view of Hunk 4,276,896.

Peterson shows a bulldozer with a hydraulic pump driven by an engine and in figure 4 four fluid motors with control valves adapted to supply fluid to all four motors in series. Control valves 53-57 are the transfer means, and are shown as manually actuated valves. Peterson does not show pilot control valves for each control valve to supply a pilot pressure signal to one or the other side of the control valve. Each valve has a closed middle position and an open left position.

Art Unit: 3745

Hunck shows a similar fluid system with motors in series, and two control valves with spools that are moved under pressure from pilot valves actuated by electrical solenoids. Manual, solenoid, and pilot operated control valves are well known in the art of fluid power systems. Hunck is relied upon to show that it is well known in the art of fluid power systems with fluid motors arranged in series to move the control valves by pilot pressure from a solenoid controlled valve. Since the Peterson invention is a fluid power system with motors arranged in series, use of the solenoid operated pilot control valves would provide a means to move the spool in the control valve for the purpose of selectively directing fluid to the motors. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the Peterson fluid power system by using a solenoid operated pilot valve system to move the spools in the main control valves for the purpose of regulating fluid flow to the motors.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Black 3713296; Cooper 3991832; Just 3348624; and Morizur 4526085 show fluid power systems with fluid motors in series.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Ryznic whose telephone number is (703) 305-0060, and fax number is (703) 308-7763. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am until 6:30 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Look, can be reached at (703) 308-1044.

Application/Control Number: 09/982,914

Page 4

Art Unit: 3745

Any inquiry of the general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ryznic". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Ryznic" clearly distinguishable.

John Ryznic
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3745
August 19, 2002